



Frequently Asked Questions

Feral Swine

What is a Feral Swine?

A Feral Swine is a free-ranging pig.

Is it legal to harvest a Feral Swine?

Yes, if you are legally hunting game during an open season (of any type) and see a swine you may pursue that animal if you wish, following all the regulations of the open season which you are hunting. (Please note: There is an open season of some species 365 days of the year.) For open seasons and regulations, please view the most current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

What type of hunting license do I need to pursue Feral Swine?

A valid hunting license of any type is all that is needed.

When can I legally harvest a feral swine?

Any time during regular hunting hours and when actively night hunting Raccoon, Opossum, Fox and Coyote. (Please be sure to follow all day and night hunting regulations for the season in which you are hunting game. Refer to the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide for details.)

What counties in Michigan are NOT open to the taking of feral swine?

Gogebic, Ontonagon, Keweenaw, Iron, Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa and Mackinac counties in the Upper Peninsula. Charlevoix, Leelanau, Benzie, Muskegon, Grand Traverse, Manistee, Van Buren, Macomb, Missaukee, and Huron in the Lower Peninsula.

Why aren't all of Michigan's counties open to the taking of feral swine?

Feral swine are not defined as wildlife. Swine are agricultural products. Determining whether a swine is a feral animal or a temporarily escaped farm animal is virtually impossible unless the animal is marked in some visible manner. Prosecution for the taking of feral swine is still a possibility in the counties above.

Can I shoot feral swine on private property?

Yes, as long as you have permission from the landowner and have a valid hunting license of any type.

Can I shoot feral swine on Public land?

Yes, on public lands open to public hunting.

What can I use to shoot feral swine?

You can only carry with you the firearm or bow and arrows allowed for that open season in which you are hunting. For a detailed listing of all the regulations, please view the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

Can I use dogs to pursue swine? If so, when and where?

Yes, except April 15 – July 15 (which is closed to use of dogs).

Can I use bait to lure swine?

No.

Can I shoot swine from a tree stand?

Yes, if you are bow hunting. Also, anyone who is hunting bear, deer, fox or coyote with a firearm may shoot swine from a tree stand.

Can I use an artificial light to locate hogs at night?

Yes, within the night time predator (Raccoon, Opossum, Fox and Coyote) hunting regulations, while engaged in these activities. For a detailed listing of these regulations, please view the current Michigan Hunting and Trapping Guide.

When I shoot or see a feral swine, who do I contact?

Department of Natural Resources: 517-336-5030 or email brownkr@michigan.gov; Department of Agriculture: 1-800-292-3939 and press "4" for the Animal Industry Division or USDA Wildlife Services: 517-336-1928.